

COURT DENIES INJUNCTION IN LUND INSURANCE TRIAL; SHERFEY, TOLSON TESTIFY

Freed of a temporary injunction prohibiting his doing insurance business with clients of his former Torrance partnership with J. Stanley King, Russell Lund this week drew a deep breath, and announced he was "all set."

The temporary injunction, issued last summer by Judge Henry M. Willis, was set aside Monday by Judge William Palmer, following trial of a suit by King to make it permanent. At the same time the judge, stating his position on the case, indicated that no new one would be issued.

Lund had entered a complaint by King that Lund had entered partnership with King in the Torrance General Insurance Agency last year with intent to learn business secrets and then open a competing agency.

Following closely the language of the defense argument, the court stated that "under our system of free enterprise it is the policy of the law to encourage competition and to look with disfavor on any attempt to restrict open competition between individuals or corporations."

As to the complaint regarding Lund's intentions, Judge Palmer said he found no evidence "beyond the mere suspicion of the plaintiff" that Lund had been guilty of any fraud or fraudulent activity.

Palmer found "substantial evidence to the contrary" and that "defendants' activities on behalf of the co-partnership indicated an honest effort on his part to increase the business."

Monday's statement by the court, which not technically a final decision, indicated the position to be taken. Final legal ruling will be handed down within two weeks, following compilation of findings of fact and conclusions of law.

If within 60 days thereafter King has not new trial pending and fails to appeal, the decision will stand as final.

Orders by the court followed considerable testimony Wednesday and Thursday of last week and Monday this week as to Lund's activities before, during and after the partnership. Since granting of Judge Willis' injunction, it was brought out in court, King has sold a half interest in the agency to Harry Greenwood at a price of \$12,500. Trial was based on an application by King for permanent injunction against Lund's soliciting or accepting business from any customers of Torrance General Insurance Agency, bought by King from Howard G. Locke in January, 1945.

Complaint alleged that Lund "aid with intent aforesaid (of taking King's clients from him) and not in good faith, falsely represented to the plaintiff that he would buy an interest in the agency."

(Continued on Page 7-A)

Riviera Tract Development Waits On Escrow; Vets Wait On Homes

Out of a Chinese puzzle picture on the Hollywood Riviera Tract No. 2 (or Palos Verdes Riviera) development, in which pieces are held by so many people that few, if any, know how they fit together, the following facts loomed this week as definite out of a fog of obscurity.

1. The property is up for sale, with Avalon Corp., according to its vice-president, Charles E. Kenner, having gone into escrow on a purchase deal.

2. Declaration of restrictions of record on the tract gives to an "art jury" of the Hollywood Riviera Community Association the power to pass on plans for any homes to be built there.

3. The community association is determined to enforce this right.

4. No plans have yet been submitted to said jury, but Kenner has acknowledged the restriction and announced his intention of submitting them, if and when purchased by Avalon Corp. clears escrow.

5. Lots in the development have been advertised and offered for sale, and orders and deposits taken on them, although no work beyond "rough grading" has as yet been done.

As to ownership of the property located on the southern portion of Torrance's ocean front section, it is shrouded in the mists of antiquity, anonymity and financial hocus-pocus.

Cast of characters involved in past, present or potential ownership are:

Ocean View Properties Inc., a development organization, variously reported as owner of, bidder for, agent for and/or developer of the property, and as successor to the old Coast & Valleys, Inc., allegedly bankrupt years since.



A. Russell Lund, Torrance insurance man, won a decision in superior court this week as defendant in a suit for a restrictive injunction.

SUPERVISOR DARBY UNDERGOES SURGERY ON THROAT AILMENT

Fourth District Supervisor Raymond V. Darby underwent surgery for removal of a goitre yesterday at Good Samaritan hospital, Los Angeles. Dr. Phillip Cumanane performed the operation.

Darby is expected to be discharged from the hospital next week, but convalescence will keep him from his duties until some time next month. He will return, however, in time for the Dec. 2 election of a board chairman, a post for which he is eligible under the customary rotation system.

HELD TO ANSWER

Joseph Sciacca, 739 W. Carson st., in Compton City Court last week was held to answer on charges of wife beating. Date of the hearing in Superior Court was not set. Sheriff's deputies arrested Sciacca Oct. 14 after he assertedly slugged his wife when she stopped to talk with a neighbor man while escorting her daughter home from school.

DAIRIES HONORED

Five Torrance dairies were this week awarded merit plaques by the California Dairy Industries Association. The honors, for the year 1946, were based on cleanliness.

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Referendum Petitions Circulated To Halt Parking Meters; Chamber Ponders Sales Tax, City Manager

Caldwell Urges Evictee Housing In Tents In Park

With the problem of housing his Veterans' Service Center pretty well under control, J. G. Caldwell sought a solution for housing worries of the many veterans' families evicted or about to be evicted, whom he has "taken under his wing."

Pointing out that as a member of the draft board he had had a part in sending many men overseas to fight, Caldwell said that "these boys are entitled to the best housing possible." He announced plans to seek a permit to erect tents, if necessary, in El Prado park so that no vet who slept in a foxhole overseas would be forced to do likewise in Torrance.

A case in point, according to Caldwell, is the family of Roy W. Stevens, 1449 218th st. Facing immediate eviction along with his wife and five children, this veteran of World War I has no place to which to move. Caldwell says he has even sought city permission for the family to pitch a tent in the ball park, but so far without avail.

Meanwhile, the service center plans to move its offices into the Welfare Center building, 1339 Post ave., probably the first of next week, immediately after building department approval of a window construction.

Chamber Aiding In Observation Of Airmail Week

Distribution is under way of about 5,000 special cacheted envelopes celebrating National Airmail Week, Oct. 27 to Nov. 2, Postmaster C. Earl Conner announced yesterday.

Printed by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the airmail covers bear the city's emblem with the motto "Torrance, the Planned City." They will be given to merchants and others using airmail, the postmaster announced, and mail carriers will distribute the envelopes to residents on their routes.

Meanwhile local stationery, variety and drug store merchants are cooperating with the post office campaign to publicize the new 5-cent airmail rate by featuring airmail stationery in displays and sales. Blaine Walker, Chamber of Commerce executive secretary revealed.

CAP Commander Said To Have 5-Year Permit

Major C. H. Holmes, Civil Air Patrol commander of Third Group, yesterday would neither confirm nor deny that he had been given a five-year permit to occupy the local airfield. The permit, some sources revealed, was issued by the United States engineers and was dated Oct. 16, 1946, with a retroactive date to Dec. 28, 1944.

The 1944 date coincides with the arrival of Major Holmes on the Lomita flight strip. Holmes admitted that such permit "could be contractable," but declined to reveal whether or not "such a permit" would be revocable. He declared that he was not in a position to publicize anything in connection with the case.

It was understood from other sources the permit granted use of 13 utility buildings, firehouse and equipment which consisted of a fire truck, hoses, pumps etc.; barracks west of the road of entry; hangars, garages, administration building, communication building, control tower and the entire power system on the 408-acre airport.

MOVE TO STOP INSTALLATION OF PARKING METERS TAKEN BY MERCHANTS GROUP MONDAY

Determined that there shall be no parking meters in front of their stores to drive away customers, merchants and other business and professional men and women in the Torrance central retail district have started circulation of referendum petitions to halt the City Council in its move to install the money-collecting machines.

Decision to refer the parking meter question to the electorate was reached Monday evening at a general membership meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Torrance Opens Community Chest Pledge Campaign

Red Feather merchants, representing the Community Chest and its 152 service, welfare and rehabilitation agencies, opened their campaign with a fund drive in 36 major Torrance establishments, Director Richard W. Ahlberg announced yesterday.

Payroll deduction and pledge slips distributed among workers in these large plants are expected to result in the biggest part of contributions toward the Torrance area's goal of \$18,364. Quota for some 8,000 employees in the establishments is set at \$15,000.

Meanwhile, under the generalship of Russell Lund, an army of workers gathered its forces for the drive, which is to contact every business, every home owner and every resident and worker in the Torrance area.

Colonels who will assist Lund in this campaign are Fred Cook (establishments), Paul M. Wheeler (special gifts).

W. E. Bowen (residential), George Johnson (business district) and A. H. Bartlett (city employees). Quotas which soldiers in these divisions will seek to surpass are business and special gifts, \$2,100 and residential, \$1,264.

As a special feature of the drive, Director Ahlberg yesterday announced that workers in the drive, and their friends, have been invited to a special free performance in Gardens of the All-American Maritime Orchestra under the baton of Earl Hatch. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at Gardena high school auditorium.

Funds from the campaign, according to "General" Lund, go to the support of 152 agencies in the county, including Boy Scouts, orthopaedic hospital, Salvation Army and Veterans Service Center. Benefits of all these agencies, it was pointed out, are available to 35 associated cities, including Torrance and Lomita, on the same basis as to the city of Los Angeles. For example, 19 Torrance and Lomita children received orthopaedic care early this year.

CHAMBER BOASTS RANKS DOUBLED AS 5 FIRMS JOIN

Torrance Chamber of Commerce elected to membership five more local firms at Tuesday night's meeting. Executive Secretary Blaine Walker announced.

They are Blaine's (Louis Benson), 1271 Sartori ave.; American Rook Wool Co. (W. T. Tillotson), 401 Arlington ave.; Torrance Bowling Academy (J. D. Hale-A. T. Kendig-R. R. Kendig), 1953 Carson st.; Howard's Jewelers (A. W. Smith, 1503 Cabrillo ave., and Alma's Pastry Shop (John L. and Alma E. Schulz), 925 Carson st.

"These additional memberships mark an increase on our rolls of approximately 100 percent over last year," Walker revealed.

WOUND HEALING

Mrs. Irene Gruber, 40 of San Pedro, shot in the right temple Saturday while her 4-year-old son was playing with a .38 caliber revolver, was discharged yesterday from Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Merchants Defer Re-Action On Sales Tax Levy

Members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously Monday evening to withhold recommendation, either for or against the proposed municipal sales tax ordinance until the City Council orders submitted to the electorate a city manager ordinance, the provisions of which are satisfactory to the board of directors of the Chamber. (See adjoining story for more complete details of city manager ordinance.)

Members also unanimously voted that "in event the City Council fails within a reasonable time to submit the City Manager ordinance, the terms of which are satisfactory to the Chamber board, the membership will, at that time, determine what future action should be taken on the sales tax ordinance."

These actions were taken by over 40 members of the Chamber who attended a specially called meeting to discuss parking meters, sales tax and city manager issues. The decisions were reached after a prolonged discussion of the problems involved from the standpoints of the merchant, the city administration and the public. P. Arnold Anderson, executive vice president of the Municipal License Tax association, and considered an authority on sales taxes, gave an impartial explanation of the sales tax ordinances of various municipalities.

The current financial problems of the city, which has a \$60,000 deficit in its treasury, were discussed.

It was pointed out that while the proposed city sales tax ordinance calls for collection of a one-half percent tax for one year only, the fear was expressed that once the levy was imposed it would be renewed from year to year.

Clarifying the action of the Chamber board of directors in sending a committee recently to confer with the City Council, Grover C. Whyte stated that the committee composed of Chamber President Reed H. Parkin and Directors C. T. Pippy and Whyte had met with the members of the City Council recently. We were authorized to offer, upon membership approval, a sort of "package deal" in which the Chamber would promise not to oppose the sales tax if limited to one year with the expressed understanding that the money so raised would be used to pay off the deficit, and would not be used for current expenses. We asked, in turn, that the City agree to submit a city manager ordinance, with proper protection to insure capital, efficient, business management, Whyte said. We also asked that the fees of the business license ordinance be reduced to acceptable levels, he said.

No commitment from the city councilmen was received on the offer, Whyte said, although the council had lowered the license fees and had submitted a sales tax ordinance with the one year limitation. However, they have given no indication of their intentions to submit the city manager ordinance to the public for vote, Whyte explained.

Then followed the unanimous passage of the two motions by the Chamber membership, which in effect endorsed the action of the committee.

Robert I. Plomert Jr., vice president of the Chamber, presided during the discussion of the sales tax and city manager. President Reed H. Parkin left to attend another meeting following the action on the parking meter referendum.

Plomert explained that city department heads had been asked to reduce their estimated budget requirements for next year. The preliminary budget for next year, totaling approximately \$480,000, and the anticipated revenue from property taxes about \$260,000, it was claimed. The question was asked, "Do they need this much?"

(Continued on Page 5-A)

SMOG SUITS BRING ACTION; MORE PLANNED; PLOMERT WARNS ON LOCAL MEASURE

Anti-smog suits filed last week against 13 defendants, including three Torrance industrial firms, have had the desired effect of securing immediate remedial action, Deputy District Attorney Fred N. Wichello disclosed yesterday.

"I doubt very seriously if we'll have to go to trial with any of them," he said. "Attorneys for the defendants have unanimously pledged cooperation."

Speaking for his firm, M. D. Schwartz of Pacific Smelting Co., one of three Torrance firms named in the public nuisance charges, stressed the difficulty of installing control equipment in short order. "We are, however, developing methods to cut down smoke, and recover the resultant products," he said, adding that he intended to install an indefinite number of "bag houses" for this purpose as soon as details can be worked out.

P. S. Magruder, vice president of the Torrance Smelting Co., announced that the refinery is currently installing experimental equipment to control emission of smoke and odors.

"As soon as we have determined upon proper design and necessary materials are available," he added, "we will install sufficient equipment to handle all conditions that we can foresee."

Officials of Columbia Steel Co., third Torrance firm cited, were unavailable for comment. Meanwhile, Wichello announced that the district attorney's office expects to file suit against another list of industrial offenders, one or two of them in the Torrance area, before the end of the month.

At its meeting next Tuesday the Torrance City Council may receive for consideration a proposed smoke control ordinance, which Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. attempted to introduce for first reading Oct. 15.

Sherfy at the time characterized the bill as "the same as the Los Angeles County anti-smog ordinance. However, consideration was deferred until it could be studied by Torrance industrial firms at the request of Robert I. Plomert Jr., of the General Petroleum Corp.

Copies of the county's "model" anti-smog ordinance have been furnished by Plomert and are now available at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, according to Blaine Walker, secretary.

The proposed Torrance ordinance is not identical with the present county ordinance. Plomert warned this week, and it should be given careful consideration before passage in order to prevent injury to the operation of local industrial plants.

One of the shortest and sweetest City Council meetings in Torrance history took place Tuesday evening in the record time of one minute, 37 seconds.

Bursting into the chamber promptly at 7:45, Councilman William H. Tolson and A. L. Jackson and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett took their places. Acting Mayor Tolson called for the roll, which Bartlett read. Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. and Councilmen George V. Powell and Mart Gilbert, failed to answer to their names. Sherfy and Powell are on a deer-hunting trip.

"In the absence of a quorum the City Council stands adjourned until next Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 7:45 p.m.," announced the acting mayor. "Bang," went the gavel.

Poker Club Waitress, Mother Of 4, Serving 14 Days For Child Neglect

Margie DeLeon, 27-year-old Gardena poker club waitress and mother of four small children, along with her husband, Richard last Friday entered a plea of guilty to charges of child neglect in Gardena Justice Court, where they were promptly sentenced by Judge John Shidler to 14 days in the county jail.

The couple, who live at 20504 S. New Hampshire ave., were called into court on a complaint sworn to by Deputy Sheriff Bess Ferris and Det. Sgt. William L. Jordan, of the Vermont ave. sheriff's station, after the children were said to have been found unclad in a locked room at the New Hampshire ave. address.

The DeLeons, explaining that theirs was a "swingshift marriage and on the verge of a crackup," readily pleaded guilty to mistreating their children, who range in age from 2 to 6 years.

Juvenile officers reported the children had been locked in a back room of the house for many weeks. "They were unclad and had no access to the bathroom and the room reeked with an accumulation of filth," declared Det. Jordan. He revealed that all the door knobs had been removed from the house to prevent the youngsters from getting out.

"Dean, the youngest, seemed to be suffering from malnutrition and in need of hospital care," Deputy Ferris told the court. The children are Dean, 2; James, 3; Marsha, 4 and Richard Jr., 6. They were taken to Juvenile Hall where they will remain during their parents' jail sentence.

Smits Appointed County Hospital Superintendent

J. E. Smits has been named superintendent of the County Harbor District hospital in Torrance after serving as temporary director since the County of Los Angeles assumed control of the former Army institution in June.

Smits having assumed his civil service status is on a six months' probationary tenure.

The county purchased the hospital from the War Assets Administration for five cents on the dollar last month, but had occupied the premises since June on a lease-purchase basis.

Some 500 persons ultimately will be under Smits' direction at the hospital, caring for the 480-bed institution and its patient population.

COUNCIL MANAGES TO KEEP SESSION UNCONTROVERSIAL

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Torrance Weather Record

Official U. S. Weather Bureau

TEMPERATURE		Maxi	Mini
Oct.		imum	mum
16		69	45
17		67	45
18		71	46
19		73	47
20		71	48
21		74	48
22		69	54
PRECIPITATION		Storm Total (Year)	
Oct. 16		.15	5.94

Picture on Page 6-A